

How to watch, wager  
& enjoy

*jai alai*



**MGM GRAND**  
**HOTEL • LAS VEGAS**

# JAI ALAI

JAI-ALAI (HI-LI) — is one of the world's oldest ball games, requiring more skill, stamina and playing nerve than any other sport. It is the easiest ball game to understand, but, this booklet answers many questions and should help make your visit to the MGM Grand Fronton an exciting experience.



## Origin Of The Game

Jai-Alai means Merry Festival in Basque Spanish. The game evolved from handball in the Basque provinces of Spain during the 17th Century. It was originally called Pelota Vasca (Basque Ball) but soon became synonymous with the Jai Alai (Merry Festival) that accompanied each performance. Today the sport is popular in Spain, France, Italy, the Philippines, Mexico and the U.S.



## Jai Alai In America

Jai-Alai was introduced to the Americas in Cuba in 1900. The sport was brought to the continent over 50 years ago when it opened in Florida. For over a half century the sport was played in that one state. In December of 1973, the MGM Grand Fronton opened, introducing Jai-Alai to the western United States. Since the Grand breakthrough in Nevada, several other states have established the game in various frontons.



# The Language Of Jai Alai

## **PARTIDOS**

Games usually limited to two players or teams and running to as many as 15 points.

## **CANCHA**

The playing court. 177 feet long, 55 feet wide.

## **REBOTE**

Back wall. This term is also used in reference to a back-wall shot.

## **FAJA**

The colorful sash worn by all players.

## **BOXING — BASEBALLING**

A popular form of wagering.

## **PELOTA VASCA**

The original name of Jai-Alai.

## **JAI-ALAI**

The name given to the game . . . actually means "Merry Festival" in the Basque language.

## **ENGLISH**

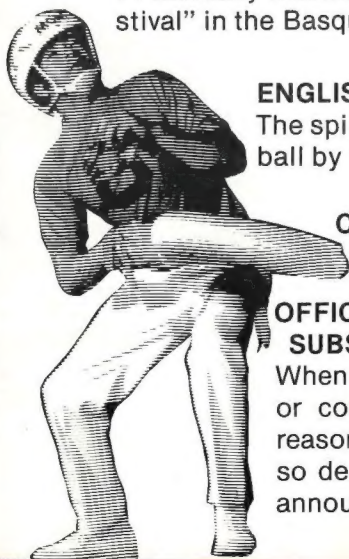
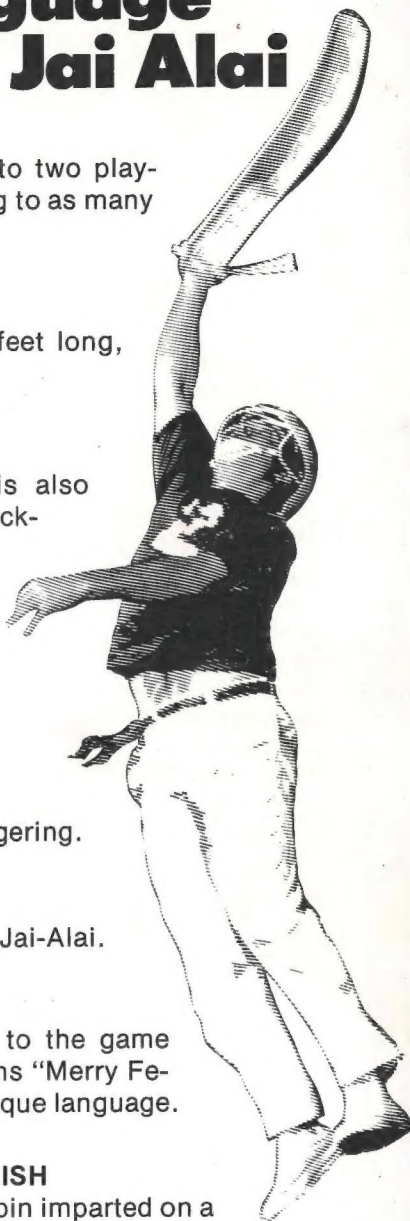
The spin imparted on a ball by the player.

## **CHULA**

A type of Jai-Alai shot.

## **OFFICIAL SUBSTITUTE**


When a player is not able to start or continue a game for a valid reason, he is replaced by a player so designated in the program or announced at the time.





**CESTA** — The wicker basket used by players. It is tailor-made to each players specifications with front court men usually playing with smaller cestas than back court men. Frame is made of steam-bent chestnut with form-shaping ribs planed down to 1/16th of an inch thick and 1 inch wide. Reed (imported from Pyrenees Mountains) is woven over the frame and ribs. The hand is inserted into a leather glove sewn to the outside of the cesta. A long tape is wound around the glove to prevent the hand from coming out of the cesta. Each one costs \$42.



 **PELOTA** — The ball is about three-quarters the size of a baseball, much harder than a golf ball and travels at speeds exceeding 150 miles per hour. It's constructed of hand-wound virgin de Para rubber from Brazil with a layer of nylon thread and two coats of specially hardened goatskin. Each ball costs about \$35. The Fronton maintains a basket-maker and ball repairman full time.



**HELMETS**—Made of reinforced hard plastic with foam rubber lining.

**PLAYERS' UNIFORMS**—Consist of white, rubber-soled shoes, white trousers, a colored sash (belt), and "T" shirts of varying colors, depending on the player's post position in the game.



### SHIRT COLORS

(All colors are standard and remain the same in accord with post position.)

Post Position	Color	Post Position	Color
1 —	Red	5 —	Black
2 —	Blue	6 —	Gold
3 —	White	7 —	Maroon
4 —	Green	8 —	Orange

# HERE'S HOW YOU WAGER AT JAI ALAI

**JAI-ALAI WAGERING IS THE SAME AS  
WAGERING AT HORSE TRACKS,  
WITH SEVERAL INNOVATIONS.**

## **WIN**

You wager that a team (or player) will win the game. Tickets are \$2 and \$10.

## **PLACE**

You wager that your team will finish at least second. Whether they finish first or second you receive the payoff shown alongside "Place" on the scoreboard. Tickets are \$2 and \$10.

## **SHOW**

You wager that your team will finish at least third. If they do, you receive the payoff alongside "Show". Tickets are \$2 and \$10.

## **QUINIELA**

You pick two teams to finish first and second in either order. Regardless of which of your teams wins or is second, you receive the quiniela price. Tickets are \$2 and \$10. When asking for Quiniela tickets, be sure to call the lower number first.

## **EXACTA**

You pick two teams to finish first and second in that order, e.g.: If you pick teams 2 and 5, it means that two must win and five must come in second. Tickets are \$5.

## **DAILY DOUBLE**

You must pick the winner of the second and third game. Tickets are \$2.

## **QUINIELA BOXING OR BASEBALLING**

You increase your chances of winning by tying up all possible combinations of your numbers. For example, if you like numbers 2-3-5 and BOX them, you have three numbers tied up: 2-3, 2-5, 3-5. A win by any of these combinations gives you the quiniela. You may BOX any amount of numbers.

## **EXACTA BOXING OR BASEBALLING**

Works the same as with quinielas.

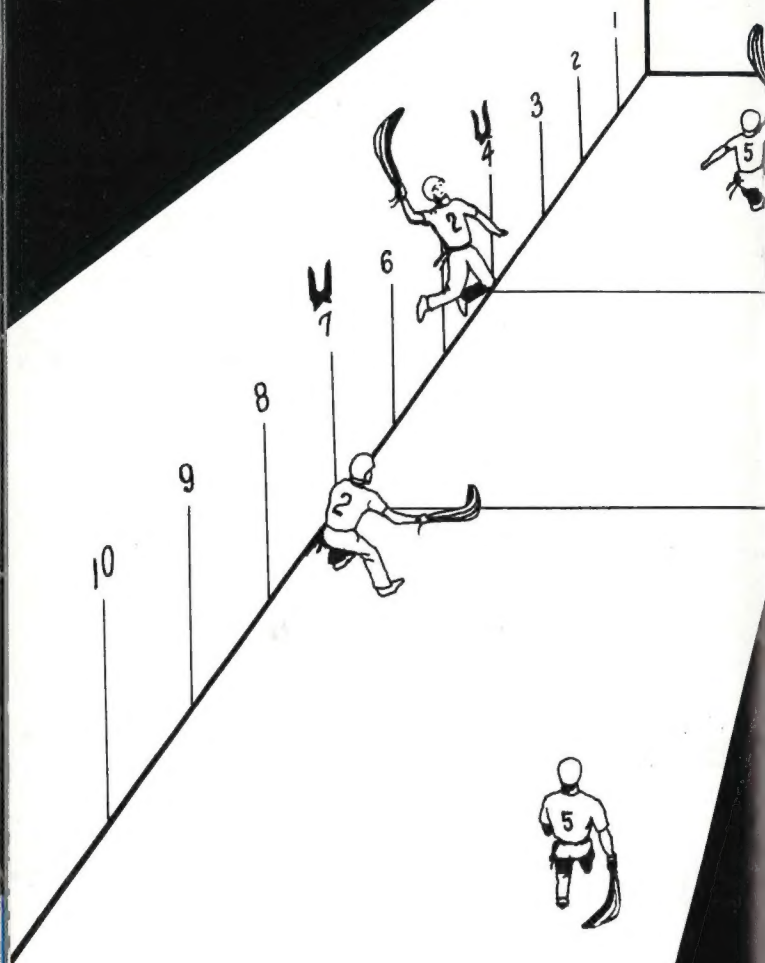
## **WHEELING**

In a quiniela or exacta wheel you tie up one team or player (post position) with all others in the game.

**Please call for player or team  
by post position number.**

*The previous days mutuel tickets, may be cashed at the  
information window on the casino's upper betting level.*

# HOW JAI ALAI IS PLAYED...





**THE COURT** — Has three walls. Is 177 feet long, 55 feet wide and 55 feet high. Front playing wall, called **FRONTIS**, measures 40'x40'. Back wall, called **REBOTE**, has same dimensions. Side wall, called **LATERAL**, measures 177'x40'. A clear vision screen protects fans.

**COURT CONSTRUCTION** — To withstand the tremendous force of the rock-hard ball, the **FRONTIS** is made of huge granite blocks. Other walls and floor are made of gunite, a pressure-applied cement. The court is divided into 15 numbered areas. The space between Nos. 4 and 7 is called the **SERVING ZONE**.

**OBJECT OF THE GAME** — Players attempt to bounce the ball against the **FRONTIS** at such speed and spin (called english) that the opposition cannot return it and loses the point. Ball must be caught and thrown in one continuous motion.

**GENERAL RULES** — Once in play, ball must be caught on fly or no more than one bounce. Play continues until the ball is missed or a player (or team) fouls out. The ball must be played within green areas of wall. Green cushions and wood floor next to screen are out of bounds, and the point is lost when ball hits these areas.

**GAME PROCEDURE** — Jai-Alai is played in doubles or singles. Doubles feature up to eight two-men teams; singles features up to eight single players. Players are seated on a bench near the court area.

Game starts when teams (or players) 1 and 2 meet. No. 1 serves the ball against the **FRONTIS** making sure it returns within the **SERVING ZONE**. Action continues until one post position loses the point.

The team winning the point stays on the court to meet the next team (No. 3) while the losing unit goes to the end of the bench.

**POINT SYSTEM** — The number of points needed to win is shown on the huge scoreboard. Second and third places go to teams with next highest points totals. In case of ties, there is a playoff.

**SPECTACULAR SEVEN POINT SYSTEM** — In designated games of eight post positions (teams or single players) playing to seven points, one point is awarded for each point scored through the first round of play. As each post comes up *after* the first complete round, *two* points are awarded for each point scored. In other words, points double after the first round.



# **GRAND 'Q' JACKPOT**

**\$2 CAN WIN ...**

**... UP TO \$50,000**

**GRAND "Q" WAGERING  
CONDUCTED ON GAMES 6 THROUGH 9  
OPENS AT THE CONCLUSION OF GAME 5  
MAKE YOUR GRAND "Q" WAGERS  
AT ALL QUINIELA WINDOWS**

## **How to Play GRAND 'Q'**

- 1** Purchase a ticket or tickets on the first game of the Grand "Q" (Game 6). No monies will be exchanged between the patrons and Pari-Mutuel sellers after the initial game of the Grand "Q" Jackpot.
- 2** Anyone with the correct Quiniela result on a sixth game ticket must exchange the same for a seventh game ticket before the machines close for the seventh game.
- 3** Anyone with the correct Quiniela result on a seventh game ticket must exchange the same for an eighth game ticket before the machines close for the eighth game.
- 4** Anyone with the correct Quiniela result on an eighth game ticket must exchange the same for a ninth game ticket before the machines close for the ninth (final) game.



- 5** If two or more patrons have the correct Quiniela result on the last game of the Grand "Q" Jackpot (Game 9), these patrons shall share an equal portion of the net pool of the performance.
- 6** If there is only one ticket with the correct Quiniela result on the last game of the Grand "Q" Jackpot, (Game 9), the holder of this ticket will collect the net pool of the performance and also the entire accumulated jackpot total.
- 7** In the event no patron or patrons select correctly all four Quinielas, the patron or patrons having an exchange ticket on the preceding game will participate in the consolation payoff of the 85% portion of the net pool.
- 8** When the payoff is distributed as in the preceding paragraphs, then the Grand "Q" game is terminated for that performance.
- 9** In the event that a patron or patrons fail to exchange a valid ticket or tickets before the machines close, the unexchanged ticket or tickets become invalid.

## **RETAIN ALL TICKETS UNTIL FINAL GRAND "Q" PAYOFF**

**(Under Section 26.140 of the Nevada Pari-Mutuel Wagering Law, resale of Pari-Mutuel tickets between individuals is prohibited and constitutes grounds for ejection from the premises wherein Pari-Mutuel wagering or the sporting event is conducted.)**

- Q. Who are the three men standing at lines 4, 7 and 11?**  
A. These are the judges; their decisions are final.
- Q. If the ball touches the top screen, is it in play?**  
A. No, the point is lost because it is a foul.
- Q. Can the player catch the ball and stop?**  
A. No, all catches must be clean. Juggling of the ball is permitted but the player must receive and deliver the ball in one continuous motion.
- Q. Why do some doubles players play only one part of the court?**  
A. Players are specialists in either the front or back court. Some players can play both front or back court positions equally well.
- Q. What happens if the front court man misses the ball?**  
A. If he misses it completely the ball remains in play, and the back court man can try to return it. However, if he touches the ball or it touches his clothes, the point is lost.
- Q. Who sets up the playing schedule and lineups?**  
A. This is handled by the players' manager who tries to make each game as perfectly balanced as possible.
- Q. A player starts to throw, then stops because another player is in front of him. What happens?**  
A. The point is replayed.
- Q. When is interference called?**  
A. When a player blocks an opposing player from getting the ball. However, should the player that was blocked attempt to get the ball, there is NO interference. Also, NO interference can be called if the judges rule that the player could not have reached the ball even if he had not been blocked.

# WHY A JAI ALAI PLAYER MUST PLAY TO WIN...



## The Rules with Teeth

**1**

Players' salaries for the next year depend on their respective performances this year! Wins, places and even shows mean additional prize money and bonuses for players.

**2**

Jai-Alai being a game of skill, the winning or losing of a point depends entirely on the individual player's skill and ability, or lack of it, and it shall be the duty of each player at all times to make every possible effort to complete a return regardless of how impossible in some instances it may be for a player to make said return play. If in the opinion of the Chief Judge a player shows lack of interest and does not use his best efforts while competing in an official game, the offender shall be subject to suspension, or fine, or both.

**3**

Players shall not be permitted to contact, talk to or signal any spectator at any time after retiring to the players' room before the start of the games on a meeting day. Violation of this rule shall make them subject to a suspension, fine, or both.



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